

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02451 241625Z

73

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 109360

R 241550Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 379

S E C R E T CAIRO 2451

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF EG US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CONCERN RE RELATIVE US-SOVIET POSITIONS IN AFRICA

1. MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD HAS RECENTLY MADE OFFICIAL VISITS TO VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES, INCLUDING MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. HE RETURNED FROM THOSE VISITS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT APPARENT GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. IN CONTRAST, HE ASSESSES US INFLUENCE AS DECLINING. GIVEN ITS OWN INTERESTS IN AFRICA, GOE IS WORRIED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND, ACTING ON FAHMY'S INSTRUCTIONS, RIAD GAVE ME LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF SOME OF HIS FINDINGS. THEY BOIL DOWN TO THIS:

A) IN ANGOLA, SOVIETS HAVE VENTURED MUCH AND SUCCEEDED. IN CONTRAST, USG, THANKS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, HAS HAD TO ABANDON ITS FRIENDS. AFRICANS ARE ASKING, ACCORDING TO RIAD, WHO GOVERNS USG FOREIGN POLICY -- CONGRESS OR THE ADMINISTRATION.

B) IN THE MAGHREB, SOVIETS ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ALGERIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO WEAKEN KING HASSAN. ACTING THROUGH QADHAAFI, WHO HAS BECOME SOVIET SURROGATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO POLISARIO AND MORE ARE LIKELY TO BE SENT. RIAD FORESEES PROTRACTED ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN TENSIONS, WITH POTENTIAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02451 241625Z

FOR MORE SERIOUS HOSTILITIES, WHICH ARE FANNED BY

SOVIETS. MAURITANIA AND TUNISIA ARE ALSO THREATENED AND, IN ABSENCE OUTSIDE HELP, POWERLESS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

C) SEIZING UPON FTAI SITUATION AND SOMALIA CONCERN OVER FRENCH INTENTION GRANT INDEPENDENCE, SOVIETS ARE EGGING ON SOMALIS. IN DOING SO, THEY ARE ENDANGERING ETHIOPIANS AND KENYANS. CORRUPTION IS RAMPANT IN KENYA, AND, ONCE KENYATTA DIES, THAT COUNTRY TOO WILL BE RIPE FOR SOCIAL TURMOIL. SOVIETS MAY BE EXPECTED SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED THEM.

D) WITH ADEN AND SOMALIA ALREADY VIRTUAL SOVIET CLIENT STATES, SOVIETS HAVE ACQUIRED STRONG STRATEGIC POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN. THEY ALSO ASPIRE TO STRENGTHENING THEIR INFLUENCE IN MAGHREB AND NW AFRICA.

2. ON ITS PART, USG SUFFERS FROM SEVERAL LIABILITIES:

A) ITS INABILITY TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BECAUSE OF NATO ASSOCIATIONS AND PORTUGAL. EXAMPLE IS USG'S EARLIER INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES DESPITE GROWING AFRICAN RESENTMENT TO PORTUGUESE PRESENCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN PORTUGUESE COLONIE BECAME INDEPENDENT, USG ALSO DID NOTHING TO HELP.

B) US ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS ANATHEMA IN AFRICAN EYES. IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA IS ACTIVELY WORKING AGAINST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. RIAD PREDICTED IF USG DOES NOT SUPPORT SUCH MOVEMENTS, THEY WILL ASSUREDLY SEEK SUPPORT FROM SOVIETS.

C) EVEN WHERE USG PREPARED ASSIST FRIENDLY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, ITS ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES TO DO SO ARE TERRIBLY SLOW. IN CONTRAST, SOVIET
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 02451 241625Z

AID SEEMS TO POUR INTO CHOSEN PLACES RAPIDLY.

3. RIAD CONTENTED THAT MANY AFRICAN LEADERS TO WHOM HE HAD TALKED, INCLUDING NETO AND NYERERE, WHILE PERFORCE COOPERATING WITH SOVITS, ARE IN FACT DISTURBED ABOUT THEIR PRESENCE. WHILE DISAVOWING ANY INTENTION ENCOURAGE US TO TAKE SPECIFIC MEASURES, RIAD MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA THAT USG

HELP AFRICA BY GIVING IT MORE ATTENTION IN US FOREIGN POLICY CALCULATIONS. WE SHOULD BE UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANT OF EMERGING AFRICAN MOVEMENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE ADMITTEDLY HALF-BAKED. USG SHOULD SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND EXPRESS READINESS TO HELP IT AFRICAN FRIENDS FINANCIALLY AND THROUGH MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN SHORT, HE PLEADED FOR A MORE ACTIVE AND RESPONSIVE USG POLICY IN AFRICA. ASSERTING THAT IT WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE, RIAD NEVERTHELESS INSISTED THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTER SOVIETS IN THAT CONTINENT.

4. IN MAKING THESE POINTS, RIAD REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED HE DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR UNDULY CRITICAL. HOWEVER, IN SPIRIT OF CANDOR THAT CHARACTERIZES OUR RELATIONS, HE HAD TO TELL US THAT MOST AFRICAN LEADERS TO WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN QUESTION WHETHER USG REALLY HAS AN AFRICAN POLICY. HE PERSONALLY DID NOT DOUBT THAT WE DID, BUT HE URGED THAT MORE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO AFRICA WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS.

EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, POLICIES, BALANCE OF POWER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO02451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0952
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarnn.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN CONCERN RE RELATIVE US-SOVIET POSITIONS IN AFRICA
TAGS: OVIP, XF, EG, US, XA, (RIAD, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006